

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for review of the present application. Applicant also notes the change of attorneys representing Applicant in this case and a corresponding change of attorney docket number as noted on the first page of this response. Claims 1-43 were previously presented. By this amendment, Applicant has added Claim 44, such that Claims 1-44 are currently pending in the application.

In an Office Action dated September 29, 2006, Claims 1-3, 10-13, 20, 21, 23-26, and 40-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,724,878 to Burg *et al.* ("the '878 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,920,812 to Palviainen ("the '812 patent"). Claims 4, 5, 7-9, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over the '878 patent in view of both the '812 patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,930,700 to Pepper *et al.* ("the '700 patent"). Claims 14-19, 27-29, 31-32, and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over the '878 patent in view of both the '812 patent and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0010691 to Shen *et al.* ("the '691 application"). Finally, Claims 30 and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over the '878 patent in view of the '812 patent, the '700 patent, and the '691 application.

Applicant provides the following remarks in response to the rejections of the Office Action and submits that the rejections of Claims 1-43 are respectfully traversed for the reasons which follow. Further, for reasons unrelated to the rejections, Applicant has amended Claim 20.

Independent Claim 1 of the present application recites:

1. A method of notifying a call forwarding party about a forwarded call, said method comprising the steps of:
 - forwarding a call from a calling party to a destination defined by said call forwarding party;
 - establishing processable data content of a notification about said forwarded call; and
 - sending said notification by a service of a communication network to a terminal of said call forwarding party, wherein said content of the notification comprises said information about at least a type of forwarding.

As such, independent Claim 1 explicitly involves "information about at least a type of forwarding." Independent Claims 20 and 25 include similar language relating to information regarding at least a type of forwarding.

The Office Action indicates that many of the elements of Claim 1 are anticipated by the '878

patent. The Office Action further asserts (at p. 3) that while the '878 patent fails to "teach the notification comprises information about a type of forwarding," the '812 patent "teaches the notification comprises information about a type of forwarding," specifically referencing col. 2, l. 58 through col. 3, l. 6 of the '812 patent. The Office Action then concludes that it would have been obvious to combine the '812 and '878 patents to yield the subject matter of Claim 1.

Ignoring for the moment the propriety of the suggested combination of the '812 and '878 patents, it is respectfully submitted that the cited passage of the '812 patent does not disclose a notification including information about a type of forwarding. Rather, the '812 patent appears to disclose a notification including information about a type of call that is subject to forwarding. As will be apparent, information about a type of call, such as indication as to whether a call is a data call or a speech call (see, e.g., col. 6, ll. 13-17 of the '812 patent), is quite different from, and does not relate to, information about a type of forwarding as set forth in Claim 1.

Thus, even if the '878 and '812 patents were combined, the combination does not teach or suggest independent Claim 1. Similarly, neither the '700 patent nor the '691 patent cures the deficiency of the '878 and '812 patents insofar as the provision of information regarding a type of forwarding and, indeed, neither of the '700 and '691 patents were cited for such. Accordingly, independent Claim 1, as well as independent Claims 20 and 25 that include analogous recitations relating to the provision of information regarding at least a type of forwarding, are not taught or suggested by the cited references, taken individually or in combination.

It is additionally noted that while the '878 patent teaches sending some type of notification about a call (although, as discussed above, not notification of a type of forwarding of the call) to an end user, the '812 patent discloses sending a notification (regarding a type of call) to an exchange in a communications network. Receipt of this notification by the exchange allows the call to be correctly routed in the network. There appears to be no motivation to combine the teachings of the '812 patent, directed to call routing within a network, and those of the '878 patent, directed to end user notification. Further, no suggestion or motivation to combine the '878 and '812 patents is provided by any of the other references cited in the Office Action, nor by any other source.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of Claims 1, 20, and 25 have been overcome, and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims, as well as the claims depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

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Additional Claim

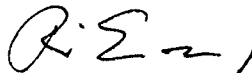
Claim 44 has been newly added by the present amendment and is directed to another aspect of the present invention. This claim is generally directed to a computer program product configured to forward a call from a calling party to a destination defined by the call forwarding party; to establish processable data content of a notification about the forwarded call, the processable data content including information about at least a type of forwarding; and to send the notification by a service of a communication network to a terminal of the call forwarding party. Support for the Claim 44 can be found throughout the specification, and specifically at pp. 13-17 and 22.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to resolve any remaining issues in order expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard D. Emery
Registration No. 58,894
Telephone No. 704-444-1108

CUSTOMER NO. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111
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